

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 053789

66

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 /136 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS

APPROVED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS

S/PRS - MR. KING (INFO)

AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

EUR/P - MR. SAVAGE

NEA/EGY - MR. STERNER

H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)

----- 004517

R 182203Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 053789

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY SANAA

UNCLAS STATE 053789

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR  
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL  
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING MARCH 18,  
1974:

QUOTE: MR. VEST: TO REPEAT OUR EARLIER STATEMENT TODAY.  
AT THE REQUEST OF THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT, THE U.S. GOVERN-  
MENT HAS AGREED TO ASSIST IN SWEEPING MINES IN THE WATERS  
OF THE SUEZ CANAL. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO AGREED TO  
PROVIDE TECHNICAL ADVICE AND TRAINING TO EGYPTIAN PERSONNEL  
RESPONSIBLE FOR CLEARING UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE IN THE CANAL  
AND ON ITS BANKS.

Q. CAN YOU ANNOUNCE OFFICIALLY THAT YOU HAVE BEEN NOTI-  
FIED BY THE ARAB STATES THAT THE EMBARGO HAS BEEN UN-  
CONDITIONALLY LIFTED?

A: WE HAVE NO OFFICIAL WORD HERE, AND I SUGGEST YOU KEEP IN  
TOUCH WITH THE WHITE HOUSE FOR THE FINAL INFORMATION  
AND COMMENTS ON THE EMBARGO.

Q: IS IT A MATTER OF FACT THAT THE BRITISH NAVY WILL  
COOPERATE WITH THE UNITED STATES NAVY IN THE SUEZ CANAL  
CLEARING?

A: I THINK ANYTHING THAT THE BRITISH DO, YOU HAD BEST  
ASK THE BRITISH.

AND I DON'T HAVE DETAILS ON THE TECHNICAL WAY IN WHICH  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 053789

WORK MIGHT BE CARRIED ON.

Q: IS THIS WORK CONTINGENT UPON ANY CONGRESSIONAL  
ACTION TO APPROVE THE USE OF MONEY?

A: LOOK -- ALL QUESTIONS -- I THINK WE SHOULD FACE  
THIS: QUESTIONS INVOLVING THE SUEZ ACTIVITY, I'M GOING  
TO HAVE TO LOOK INTO THAT. I DON'T HAVE ANY DETAILS

BEYOND THE BARE ANNOUNCEMENT ITSELF, AS OF TODAY.

Q: GIVEN THE IMMINENCE OF THE SECRETARY'S DEPARTURE FOR MOSCOW, DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY REACTION TO THE RATHER NEGATIVE APPRAISAL MADE BY PRAVDA YESTERDAY OF THE US ACTIVITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST, PARTICULARLY THE SECRETARY'S?

A: NO, I DON'T THINK SO. DOBRYNIN IS BACK IN TOWN, AND I'M SURE THEY WILL TALK OVER ALL SUBJECTS THAT ARE OF COMMON CONCERN THESE DAYS LATER THIS WEEK. BUT I DON'T ANTICIPATE ANYTHING SPECIAL IN RELATION TO THIS PRAVDA STORY, WHICH, ON CLOSE INSPECTION, DIDN'T SEEM ALL THAT EXTRAORDINARY.

Q: WELL, DO YOU CONSIDER IT EXTRAORDINARY THAT THE SOVIET UNION, WHICH HAS BEEN CHARACTERIZED BY THE SECRETARY OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS AS HAVING PLAYED A POSITIVE ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS, IS NOW DEMEANING THE US PART IN THOSE NEGOTIATIONS?

A: I THINK YOU HAVE TO LOOK BENEATH WHAT ANYBODY SAYS ANYWHERE AT WHAT THEY ARE DOING.

Q: WHAT ABOUT THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY'S GOING TO THE MIDDLE EAST APRIL 20?

A: WHILE THERE ARE NO FIRM PLANS FOR A VISIT TO THE MID EAST, IT REMAINS A POSSIBILITY THAT HE MIGHT DO SO SOMETIME AFTER THAT MEETING WITH THE LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS APRIL 17 AND 18. KISSINGER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** EXPLOSIVES, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, PRESS CONFERENCES, INTERNATIONAL CANALS, DREDGING, EMBARGOES, PEACE TALKS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 MAR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974STATE053789  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** JEBRIGGS  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740334/aaaabggv.tel  
**Line Count:** 145  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ORIGIN NEA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** shawdg  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 JUL 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <15 JUL 2002 by elbezeifj>; APPROVED <10 DEC 2002 by shawdg>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL  
**TAGS:** PFOR, XF, US, UK  
**To:** AMMAN MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005